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## Books: Digging to the roots

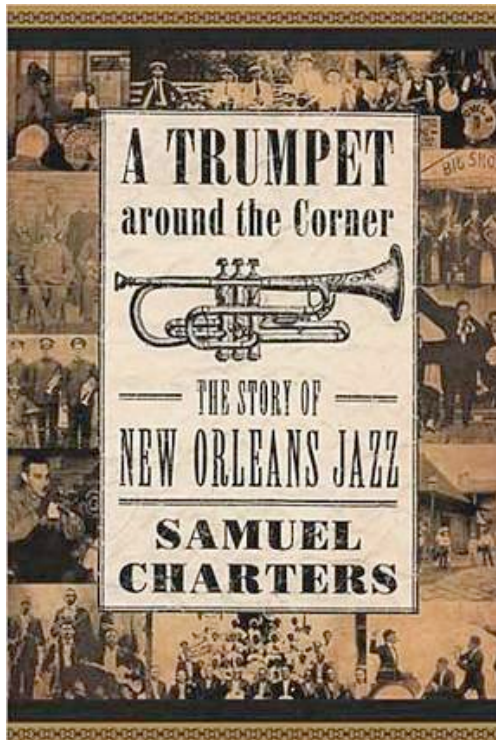
### This week we pick a variety of books that examine Louisiana's musical heritage.

by Cheré Coen

Louisiana music, its legacy and influence on American society have long been the subjects of academic research. Several new books can be added to that extensive library.

Mark F. DeWitt, an independent scholar living in Oakland, Calif., has published an examination of the Cajun and zydeco music scene of the Bay Area in *Cajun and Zydeco Dance Music in Northern California: Modern Pleasures in a Postmodern World* (University Press of Mississippi, \$50).

DeWitt looks at the Creoles and Cajuns who moved to northern California after World War II and "the music they made in their new home," as well as the fans, dancers and California musicians who embraced the unique musical genres. He poses many questions revolving around cultural tourism and identity issues in an area where Cajun and zydeco music popularity is huge.



Also by the University Press of Mississippi is *A Trumpet Around the Corner: The Story of New Orleans Jazz* (\$40) by jazz and blues historian Samuel Charters, who is also a Grammy-winning record producer, musician, poet and fiction writer and inductee of the Blues Hall of Fame. Charters discusses jazz's formative years and the roles played by New Orleans' African Americans, white and Creoles, plus the influences of the city's Italian immigrant musicians. The book contains the author's interviews that date back to the 1950s, plus material gathered by the Oral History Project in New Orleans, and includes the prospects of jazz after Hurricane Katrina.

Joe Evans details his nearly 30-year career in music from 1939 to 1965 in *Follow Your Heart: Moving with the Giants of Jazz, Swing and Rhythm and Blues* (University of Illinois Press, \$24.95) with Christopher Brooks, a professor of African American

studies at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Charles Hiroshi Garrett, professor of Musicology at the University of Michigan School of Music, discusses the power of music to cross barriers, New Orleans musicians such as Louis Armstrong and Jelly Roll Morton and the migration of musicians out of the South, among other issues, in *Struggling to Define a Nation: American Music and the Twentieth Century* (University of California Press, \$24.95)

Other books regarding musicians or people who influenced Louisiana music or books published by Louisiana authors include:

*Sing It Pretty: Bess Lomax Hawes, A Memoir* (University of Illinois Press, \$19.95) is the story of Hawes, daughter of John Lomax and sister to Alan Lomax, and her account of the folk music boom of the mid-20th century. Hawes is a folklorist, teacher and musicologist who was awarded a National Medal of Arts by President Bill Clinton in 1993.

Tulane history professor emeritus Bill C. Malone capsules the life of Hazel Dickens, an Appalachian singer and songwriter, along with Dickens' own words, in *Working Girl Blues: The Life and Music of Hazel Dickens* (University of Illinois Press, \$17.95) The book is part of the "Music in American Life" series.

*78 Blues: Folksongs and Phonographs in the American South* (University Press of Mississippi, \$50) by John Minton discusses the thousands of performances captured by phonograph companies between 1920 and World War II, including "hillbilly" and "race" records.

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